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2-4-2013

Office of Research, News & Opportunities, February 4, 2013

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Recommended Citation

University of Tennessee Office of Research, "Office of Research, News & Opportunities, February 4, 2013" (2013). *News and Opportunities*.
https://trace.tennessee.edu/utk_researchnews/71

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Office seeks assistant vice chancellor to monitor, promote research integrity

The UT Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement is seeking to fill the position of assistant vice chancellor for research to serve as an institutional integrity officer promoting the ethical and responsible conduct of research.

The faculty position will report directly to the vice chancellor for research and engagement, and will work to advance the culture of research integrity and responsible conduct of research through policy development and revision; monitoring and implementation of federal, state, and local regulations; and multiple compliance activities.

The position (job number 1300000029) has been posted to the UT Human Resources job site. Review of applications will begin February 25, 2013. The search is internal to the university.

Details (requires log-in): <http://humanresources.tennessee.edu/recruitment/>

UTK chemical inventory due March 1

Faculty and others on the UT Knoxville campus who work with hazardous chemicals in their teaching or research must complete an inventory of those materials by Friday, March 1, 2013.

For all labs that have an existing inventory, the Office of Environmental Health and Safety will be emailing an Excel spreadsheet that details the chemical holdings of the lab. That inventory should be updated according to the accompanying instructions.

Departments with faculty who do not have existing inventories should advise the new faculty members to contact Environmental Health and Safety to create an inventory.

The office compiles the inventory annually to meet regulatory requirements and to provide information to fire and other emergency responders who might be called to a campus building.

Contact: Pam Koontz (pjkoontz@utk.edu, 865-974-5084)

Details: <http://www.ehs.utk.edu/>

For NSF proposal preparers . . .

Miriam Campo, director of the Office of Sponsored Programs, has announced clarifications to National Science Foundation project summary and page limitation issues, including not only a maximum line count but also a new maximum number of characters.

Special rules apply to summaries with formulas or special characters.

Contact: 865-974-3466

UT Science Forum in February

February 8 — "Low Testosterone (Low T): Implications for Men's Health Far Beyond Sex," **Thomas C. Namey**, M.D., associate director, UT Nutrition Institute

February 15 — "Curiouser and Curiouser: NASA's Curiosity Rover's Mission in Gale Crater," **Linda Kah**, associate professor of earth and planetary sciences

February 22 — "Firefighter Paramedics and the Hot Potato Baby — It's Not What You Think," **Robby Nix**, lieutenant and critical care paramedic, Rural Metro Fire Department.

Location: Thompson-Boling Arena Cafe, Rooms C-D
Time: Fridays, 12 noon to 1 p.m.

Format: Lunch with guest speaker, Q&A to follow.
Bring lunch or buy in arena dining.

Researchers probe likelihood of overlapping grants; *Nature* calls for more oversight

Two bioinformatics researchers at Virginia Tech and a colleague in a private genomics company have published a study in *Nature: Comment* that analyzes a significant corpus of grants and concludes that at least 167 of them have significant duplicated content.

Using similarity software developed for the project, Harold Garner, Lauren McIver, and Michael Waitzkin reviewed more than 850,000 funded grants and contract summaries from the five largest U.S. agencies that fund biomedical research. The agencies studied included the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, the departments of Energy and Defense, and the Susan G. Komen for the Cure charity.

"We could not determine definitively whether the similar grants we identified were true duplicates, . . ." the three wrote. "But we did find evidence that since 1985 . . . tens of millions of dollars may have been spent on projects in which at least a portion of the research was already being funded." Garner and colleagues estimated that some \$70 million in overlapping awards may have been awarded in the last 10 years.

In response to the article, *Nature* sent two reporters to explore some of the suspected duplicate awards. Eugenie Samuel Reich and Conor Myhrvold used the Freedom of Information Act to uncover 22 pairs of very similar grants. The reporters acknowledged that researchers face a "regulation labyrinth" in avoiding duplication within and among agencies.

In an accompanying editorial *Nature* notes that "checks on overlap are mostly trust-based" and recommends that government and funding agencies "do more to prevent the awarding of grants to research projects with significant overlap" by creating open, public databases of all awards and proactively using text-similarity software. ". . . [W]ith government budgets squeezed, there is nothing more important than making sure that what money remains for project-based science is spent wisely."

Nature Comment: Same work, twice the money?

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v493/n7434/pdf/493599a.pdf>

Editorial: <http://www.nature.com/news/twice-the-price-1.12311>

Story: <http://www.nature.com/news/funding-agencies-urged-to-check-for-duplicate-grants-1.12317#/double>

NSF wants early move to Research.gov

The National Science Foundation wants researchers who are preparing to submit project reports after February 1, 2013, to file them using Research.gov instead of the agency's FastLane program, which is being retired on March 15, 2013.

In a Dear Colleague letter dated January 10, the NSF urged that due or overdue project reports be entered into the new program starting February 1, so that researchers can familiarize themselves with Research.gov in time to migrate to the new program by March 18. Deadlines for projects that would be overdue between January 31 and April 30 have been extended.

Research.gov will allow investigators to use the same log-in and NSF password that they used to access FastLane. The new system offers a project reporting dashboard that is intended to make it easier for principal investigators, co-PIs, and Sponsored Project Office staff to identify due or overdue reports and to access all reports submitted to the agency. The new program is intended to provide the next generation of grants management capabilities for the research community.

Dear Colleague Letter: <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2013/nsf13041/nsf13041.jsp?org=NSF>

Details: http://www.research.gov/research-portal/appmanager/base/desktop?_nfpb=true&_pageLabel=research_node_display&_nodePath=/researchGov/Service/Desktop/PublicOutcomesReport.html

Sequestration pushes DOD toward layoffs

The U.S. Department of Defense is shedding its payroll of thousands of temporary workers as it prepares for the congressional sequestration of funds and gets ready to furlough its civilian employees one day a week without pay for the rest of fiscal 2013, according to FederalNewsRadio.com's Jared Serbu.

In the last week, most of the federal response to the possible sequestration have come from the Defense Department. While the Office of Management and Budget has advised all federal agencies to intensify their preparations for the March 1 event, the responses of individual agencies is expected to vary, and the impact on federally sponsored research programs is not clear. The Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement continues to monitor agency responses to the possibility of sequestration for posting on its web site.

Details: http://research.utk.edu/fiscal_cliff/

INTERNAL FUNDING

Organized Research Units (ORUs)

The university, through the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement, provides a funding mechanism designed to increase the competitiveness of research groups as they attempt to win external funding and achieve financial independence.

Organized Research Unit funding helps new ORUs get a foothold in acquiring funding or aids sustain existing ORUs that have a large return on investment. Forming and sustaining multidisciplinary research groups are particularly encouraged, and support is available in a competitive process that considers both existing ORUs and potential ORUs that are beginning to coalesce around a research topic.

NOTE: The 2013-14 round of budget proposals and hearings are set for March 4, 5, 11, and 12. See web site for schedule.

Key date: February 8, 2013 — proposals due to Jane Taylor (tayloje@utk.edu) at close of business

Details: <http://research.utk.edu/orus/>

Sessions on Fulbright program scheduled

Faculty interested in the Fulbright Scholar program are invited to hear Janet Haner, faculty Fulbright advisor at Pennsylvania State University, in two February talks on campus. Penn State is recognized for one of the nation's most robust Fulbright programs. Haner will focus on the core program, other types of awards, international contacts, and other tips and advice for Fulbright applicants.

Key dates: Thursday, February 7, from 3 p.m. to 4:30
Friday, February 8, from 10 a.m. to 11:30
Place: Haslam Building, Room 334
Contact: RSVP to Bea Misch (bmisch@utk.edu, 974-3177)

January issue of funding newsletter posted

The January 2013 issue of *Research Development & Grant-Writing Newsletter* (Vol. 3, No. 5) is available on the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement website, showcasing the following features and columns:

- How to Write a More Competitive NSF Proposal
- Using the Revised Grant Proposal Guide, 2013
- How NSF's Revised Merit Review Criteria for 2013 Will Impact Your Project Narrative
- What's New about Broader Impacts in 2013
- Why Generalities Suffocate the Narrative
- Update: White House's Advanced Manufacturing Partnership

NOTE: The newsletter is proprietary to Academic Research Funding Strategies LLC. The OVCRE subscription requires use of net ID and login. The login process does not support all browsers.

Details: <http://research.utk.edu/news/rdgw.shtml>

COMPLIANCE CORNER

Conflict of Interest

All proposals that go to Public Health Service agencies now require that anyone listed on the proposal (faculty, staff, and students) must take conflict-of-interest training.

The Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement provides online conflict-of-interest training as it relates to sponsored programs. Three modules developed by the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative are required: Introduction, Financial Conflicts of Interest (Overview, Investigator Responsibilities, and COI Rules), and Institutional Responsibilities as They Affect Investigators. An optional course is also available: Conflicts of Commitment, Conscience, and Institutional Conflicts of Interest. The training is accessible at <http://www.citiprogram.org>. It requires registration with a user name and password, and online affiliation with the University of Tennessee Knoxville (NOT the UT Health Sciences Center Knoxville).

NOTE: This requirement is not related to University of Tennessee employment policies which require that all faculty and staff disclose conflicts of interest within the university.

Contact: ortraining@utk.edu
Details: <http://research.utk.edu/training/conflict-of-interest.shtml>

SciVal is new supplier of funding info

The UT Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement has contracted with Elsevier for universitywide access to the SciVal Funding database, which provides an online source of funding opportunities for campus researchers.

The SciVal Funding service is powerful because it is connected to Elsevier's Scopus database, billed as the world's largest abstract and citation database of peer-reviewed literature. During a search for funding sources, SciVal presents a list of funding opportunities that takes into account the previous publication history of the researcher.

Online tutorials are available to introduce faculty scholars to finding funding, reviewing already awarded grants, and creating a search profile to personalize the list of recommended opportunities.

UT Knoxville no longer supports use of Pivot/Community of Science, a product of ProQuest.

Details: <http://www.funding.scival.com/home#b>

Applications open for grad assistantships

The Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement is accepting applications for graduate research assistantships in summer (May, June, and July) 2013. The assistantship must be for a named graduate student and may be in partial fulfillment of the student's degree requirements, but the application must show how the research project will advance the faculty member's research agenda. Proposals will be judged by a subcommittee of the Research Council, and funding will be available at the beginning of the summer term.

Key date: February 15, 2013, by 12 noon — submission of electronic application to OVCRE (Jane Taylor, tayloje@utk.edu). There can be no exceptions to the deadline.

Details: <http://research.utk.edu/funding/gra.shtml>

Summer internships for undergrads available

Up to 75 internships at \$2,000 each will be awarded to support students who will work on a research or creative project with a UT Knoxville faculty mentor during the summer of 2013. The purpose of these internships is to increase the participation of undergraduate students in the UT research enterprise. The UT Knoxville Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement administers this internship program. The funding is provided by the Office of the Chancellor and OVCRE.

Students must submit an application form, their official transcript, a two-page narrative describing the proposal and its educational impact, and a schedule indicating the level of effort and project milestones.

Key date: February 28, 2013 by 12 noon — submission of application materials electronically to Jane Taylor (tayloje@utk.edu)
Details: <http://research.utk.edu/undergrad/internships/>

